

PHOTODYNAMIC THERAPY UTILIZING A SOLUTION OF PHOTSENSITIZING COMPOUND AND SURFACTANT

Related Application

This application is a continuation-in-part application based on prior copending application Ser. No. 09/139,866 filed August 25, 1998, the benefit of the priority date is hereby claimed pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §120.

Field of the Invention

The invention relates to a photodynamic therapy (PDT), and more particularly to a photodynamic therapy utilizing a combined solution of a photosensitizing compound and surfactant compound. Still more specifically, the invention relates to photodynamic inactivation of bacteria, fungal, and viral wound infections and sterilization of tissue using methylene blue or toluidene blue and a surfactant, such as polymyxin B or SDS. Additionally, the invention relates to photodynamic eradication of cancer cells, such as present within a tumor, by PDT in conjunction with an administration of a solution including a photodynamic sensitizing compound and a surfactant. The present invention advantageously uses light energy in combination with a photosensitizing agent and a surfactant solution to treat both invitro and invivo pathogens, including cancer cells and microbiological pathogens.

Background of the Invention

Abnormal cells in the body are known to selectively absorb certain dyes delivered to a treatment site to a more pronounced extent than surrounding tissue. Once presensitized, the cancerous or abnormal cells can be destroyed by irradiation with light of an appropriate wavelength corresponding to an absorbing wavelength of the dye, with minimal damage to surrounding normal tissue. This procedure, which is known as photodynamic therapy (PDT), has been clinically used to treat metastatic breast cancer, bladder cancer, head and neck cancers, and other types of malignant tumors.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention provides a method of photoeradication of cells at a tissue site, such as during an invitro or invivo disinfection procedure, or during a sterilization procedure, or for cancer cell destruction. The method utilizes a combined solution of a photosensitizing dye and a surfactant compound. The invention provides a method of disposing the combined solution at or near the tissue site and subsequently irradiating the tissues site with laser light at a wavelength absorbed by the photosensitizing dye.

The invention relates to use of a photosensitizing agent, such as methylene blue or toluidene blue, in combination with a surfactant compound, such as polymyxin B or SDS, in a PDT treatment protocol against bacterial or fungal infections or for cancer cell photoeradication. A treatment device is configured to deliver light energy to the area of infection at wavelengths ranging from about 450 nm to about 850 nm; provide a dosage rate ranging from about 0 to about 150 mw/cm²; and provide a light dose ranging from 0 to about 300 J/cm².

The use of a photosensitizer, e.g., methylene blue or toluidene blue, combined with a surfactant compound, such as SDS or polymyxin B, in a photodynamic therapy advantageously acts as a broad spectrum antimicrobial, i.e., antibacterial, antiviral, and antifungal agent. The dye/surfactant combination and PDT may be used, for example, before a surgical operation. The present invention advantageously results in the destruction of gram positive and gram negative bacteria and fungus. Importantly, the present invention acts to destroy antibiotic resistant bacteria as it utilizes a different destruction mechanism than antibiotics.

The invention relates to a method of treating an infection including identifying an in-vivo area of infection; applying a concentration including a photosensitizing dye, such as methylene blue or toluidene blue, and a surfactant, such as polymyxin B or SDS, to the area of infection; and exposing the area of infection with a light having a light wavelength, light dosage and a light dosage rate. The light wavelength may range from about 610 nm to about 680 nm. The light dosage may range from about 10 J/cm² to about 60 J/cm². The light dosage rate may range from about 50 mw/cm² to about 150 mw/cm². The wavelength may range from about 630 nm to about 664 nm. The concentration may range from about 10 µg/ml to about 500 µg/ml. The area of infection may include gram positive and gram negative bacteria, fungus, or virus including,

but not limited to, at least one of staphylococcus, candida albicans, escherichia coli, enterococcus, streptococcus, pseudomonas aeruginosa, hemophilus influenzae, or clostridia.

The invention also relates to a treatment kit including a volume of a concentration including at least a combination of methylene blue or toluidene blue and polymyxin B or SDS. The concentration ranges from about 3 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ to about 500 $\mu\text{g/ml}$. Also included is a light emitting treatment device. The light emitting treatment device is configured to emit at wavelengths ranging from about 450nm to about 850nm; provide a dosage rate ranging from about 0 to about 150 mw/cm^2 ; and provide a light dose ranging from 0 to about 300 J/cm^2 .

The invention also relates to a method of treating an infection, an invitro or invivo sterilization procedure, or photoeradication of cancer cells, including providing one or more cells; disposing a concentration of combined dye/surfactant on the one or more cells; applying a light having a wavelength ranging from about 450nm to about 850nm; a dosage rate ranging from about 0 to about 150 mw/cm^2 ; and a light dose ranging from 0 to about 300 J/cm^2 to the one or more cells wherein the combination of light and dye is adapted to cause photodestruction of the one or more cells. The one or more cells may be a bacteria, virus, a fungus, or cancer cells. The one or more cells may be gram positive or gram negative. The dye may be methylene blue, toluidene blue, or a combination thereof. The dye may be monomeric or dimeric.

Still other objects and advantages of the present invention and methods of construction of the same will become readily apparent to those skilled in the art from the following detailed description, wherein only the preferred embodiments are shown and described, simply by way of illustration of the best mode contemplated of carrying out the invention. As will be realized, the invention is capable of other and different embodiments and methods of construction, and its several details are capable of modification in various obvious respects, all without departing from the invention. Accordingly, the drawing and description are to be regarded as illustrative in nature, and not as restrictive.

Brief Descriptions of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a table of results of photodynamic photoeradication using a combined solution of methylene blue and the surfactant, SDS.

Detailed Description of the Invention

In accordance with the invention, a photodynamic therapy is provided utilizing a photosensitizing agent such as methylene blue or toluidene blue in combination with a surface acting agent or 'surfactant' and a light emitting treatment device such as a light wand, light patch, light pad or shaped light-emitting article such as a mouthpiece to illuminate the site.

The present invention may be used in conjunction with or in relation to inventions disclosed in the following applications of the applicant, including:

Method of Enhancing Photodynamic Therapy by Administering an Immunologic

Adjuvant, U.S. pat. app. Ser. No. 09/139,861, pending;

Expandable Treatment Device for Photodynamic Therapy and Method of Using

Same, U.S. pat. app. Ser. No. 09/239,353, pending;

Spatial Orientation and Light Sources and Method of Using Same for Medical

Diagnosis and Photodynamic Therapy, U.S. pat. app. Ser. No. 09/139,862, now

U.S. Pat. No. 6048359; and

Treatment Device for Topical Photodynamic Therapy and Method of Making Same,

PCT/US9817589, WO 99/10046, pending.

All documents within these applications are herein incorporated by reference in their entireties for all purposes.

Photosensitizing dyes and compounds for use in accordance with the present invention are generally non-toxic to the target microbes and surrounding tissues at concentrations envisaged. However, there is no particular requirement that the photosensitizers should be non-toxic to the microbes. Particular photosensitizers which may be used in accordance with the invention include dyes and compounds such as methylene blue and toluidene blue.

Surface acting agents, or surfactants, are defined as substances which alter the energy relationship at interfaces. Among the manifestations of these altered energy relationships is the lowering of surface or interfacial tensions. Compounds displaying surface activity are characterized by an appropriate structural balance between one or more water-attracting groups and one or more water-repellent groups. Surfactants characterized by having two different moieties, one polar and the other nonpolar. The polar moiety is referred to as hydrophilic or

lipophobic, and the nonpolar as hydrophobic or lipophilic. The electrical charge on the hydrophilic portion of a surface acting agent may serve as a convenient basis of classification of these compounds. Surface active agents have been classified as : Anionic, Cationic, Non-Ionic, and Amphoteric. Surfactants are known to affect the permeability of cell membranes. The ability of surfactants to become oriented between lipid and protein films is thought to produce a disorientation of the lipoprotein membrane of microorganisms, so that it no longer functions as an effective osmotic barrier. The polymixins, colistimethate, and the polyene antifungal agents nystatin and amphotericin are surfactants, as is sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS).

A photosensitizing dye compounds such as methylene blue or toluidene blue may be used in combination with surfactants, such as SDS and polymyxin B, and activated by light energy at approximately 630-660 nm wavelengths to provide broad spectrum antibiotic activity for destroying both gram positive and gram-negative bacteria, fungus, virus and cancer cells. The dye compound and surfactant may be combined in solution and administered to a site to be treated. Solution administration may include topical application, or intravenous, subcutaneous, intratumor, or peritumoral injection. Additional administration approaches may also be practicable. An intratumoral injection of the solution may be advantageous for photoeradication of tumor cells.

A particular treatment protocol utilizing the photosensitizer methylene blue and SDS concentrations from 0.001% to 0.01 % has been identified as advantageous in the destruction of certain microorganisms, such as candida albicans, escherechia coli, pseudomonas aeruginosa, staphylococcus aureus, and streptococcus pneumoniae.

Reference may be made to FIG. 1, which illustrates a schedule of results for an investigation according to the present invention of photoeradication using methylene blue mediated PDT and the surfactant, SDS, at a wavelength of approximately 664 nm. The laser used was a diode laser with a power output of 1000 mW. Methylene blue concentrations range from 5 to 100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$. SDS concentrations range from 0.003 to 0.01 %. Light power ranges from 0.127 to 0.3 watts. The combined solution was topically applied at the cell site. Light dosage rates range from 75 to 100 mW/cm^2 . Light dosages range from 15 to 60 J/cm^2 . A qualitative colony count relates particular colony counts to an associated score. For instance, a qualitative

colony count of 5 would yield a score of '1', while a colony count of 151 would have an associated score of '3'. The results of this investigation demonstrated that the solution including a surfactant and a photosensitising agent can sensitize several species of bacteria to killing by diode laser irradiation.

A laser light source may be used to practice the present invention. A variety of light sources are currently available, and the selection of a particular laser light source for implementing the PDT would readily be appreciated by those skilled in the relevant arts. The laser source will be selected having regard to the choice of wavelength, beam diameter, exposure time and sensitivity of the microbes to the laser/photosensitizer/surfactant combination.

The above described embodiments of the invention are merely descriptive of its principles and are not to be considered limiting. Further modifications of the invention herein disclosed will occur to those skilled in the respective arts and all such modifications are deemed to be within the scope of the invention as defined by the following claims.